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U.S. ECO ONLINE - ENERGY
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No 11 – July/August/September 2009

GENERAL INTEREST

Anne M. Stark
U.S. Energy Use Drops in 2008
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory - July 20, 2009
https://publicaffairs.llnl.gov/news/news_releases/2009/NR-09-07-02.html

Americans used more solar, nuclear, biomass and wind energy in 2008 than they did in 2007, according to the study. The nation used less coal and petroleum during the same time frame and only slightly increased its natural gas consumption. Geothermal energy use remained the same.

Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources: 2002-2008
Environmental Law Institute - September 2009 - 37 pages
http://www.elistore.org/Data/products/d19_07.pdf

The largest U.S subsidies to fossil fuels are attributed to tax breaks that aid foreign oil production, according to the research. The study, which reviewed fossil fuel and energy subsidies for Fiscal Years 2002-2008, the lion's share of energy subsidies supported energy sources that emit high levels of greenhouse gases.

Potential Costs and Price Volatility in the Energy Sector as a Result of a Greenhouse Gas Trading Program
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing - September 15
http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=9f3597e7-a135-e397-f850-b22b300d4b24

The purpose of the hearing is to explore potential costs and price volatility in the energy sector as a result of a greenhouse gas trading program and ways to reduce or contain those costs.
Witnesses
The Honorable Eileen Claussen, Pew Center on Global Climate Change
Mr. Jason Grumet - , Bipartisan Policy Center
Dr. Joseph Mason, Louisiana State University
Dr. Michael Wara, Stanford University
Mr. Brent Yacobucci, Congressional Research Service

CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Energy Market and Economic Impacts of H.R. 2454, The American Clean Energy And Security Act of 2009
Energy Information Administration - August 4, 2009 – 81 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/hr2454/pdf/sroiaf(2009)05.pdf

The report responds to a request from Chairman Henry Waxman and Chairman Edward Markey for an analysis of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACESA). ACESA, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 26, 2009, is a complex bill that regulates emissions of greenhouse gases through market-based mechanisms, efficiency programs, and economic incentives.

David Kreutzer, Karen Campbell, William W. Beach, Ben Lieberman and Nicolas Loris
The Economic Consequences of Waxman-Markey: An Analysis of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009
The Heritage Foundation – Report - August 6, 2009 – 22 pages
http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/CDA_09-041.pdf

"Since energy is the lifeblood of the American economy, 85 percent of which comes from CO2-emitting fossil fuels, the Waxman-Markey bill represents an extraordinary level of economic interference by the federal government. For this reason, it is important for policymakers to have a sense of the economic impact that accompanies any environmental benefits. Analysis by The Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis (CDA) makes clear that Waxman-Markey promises serious perils for the American economy for the years and decades ahead."

Economic Impact of the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act
NAM/ACCF – Study - August 12, 2009
http://accf.org/publications/126/accf-nam-study

"The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF) releases a comprehensive study on the impact of The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, also known as the Waxman-Markey Bill (HR 2454). The study conducted by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) using NAM and ACCF input assumptions, assesses the impact of the Waxman-Markey Bill on manufacturing, jobs, energy prices and our overall economy. The NAM and ACCF has released national data as well as the analysis for all 50 states if this or similar legislation is signed into law."

Clean-Energy Debate Guide
Center for American Progress – June 23, 2009 – 10 pages
http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2009/06/pdf/energy_debate.pdf

"The American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454, would create jobs, reduce oil dependence, cut global warming pollution, and increase American competitiveness. It is a fragile compromise with support from utilities, energy companies, labor unions, and environmentalists. Despite its broad appeal conservative opponents continue to repeat factual misstatements, half truths, and outright howlers. This study guide debunks these myths and provides the facts."

Climate Change and Ensuring that America Leads the Clean Energy Transformation
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works – Hearing - August 6, 2009
http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=cdecc040-802a-23ad-4421-dd97594eaafb

"Today's hearing will focus on ensuring that America leads the clean energy transformation as we address the threat posed by climate change. I want to welcome our witnesses who will share their insights and expertise on this critical subject."

Ensuring and Enhancing U.S. Competitiveness while Moving toward a Clean Energy Economy
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works – Hearing – July 16, 2009
http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Statement&Statement_ID=59a154af-2da8-43ce-bfb6-f13055e753eb

'Today's hearing will focus on creating clean energy jobs here in America and ensuring that this country is the world's economic and technological leader in the 21st century… When we unleash the American innovative spirit, we will drive economic growth and create jobs and whole new industries here at home. American entrepreneurs will create jobs – including jobs building wind turbines that we can export to the world, jobs installing solar panels on homes and businesses, and jobs producing energy efficient products and a new fleet of electric and hybrid vehicles. At the same time, we must ensure that our existing industries receive fair treatment as we transition to a clean energy economy.'

John Podesta, Kate Gordon , Bracken Hendricks, Benjamin Goldstein
The Clean-Energy Investment Agenda - A Comprehensive Approach to Building the Low-Carbon Economy
Center for American Progress – Report - September 21, 2009 – 16 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/clean_energy_investment.html

"The United States is having the wrong public debate about global warming. We are asking important questions about pollution caps and timetables, carbon markets and allocations, but we have lost sight of our principal objective: building a robust and prosperous clean energy economy. This is a fundamentally affirmative agenda, rather than a restrictive one. Moving beyond pollution from fossil fuels will involve exciting work, new opportunities, new products and innovation, and stronger communities. Our current national discussion about constraints, limits, and the costs of transition misses the real excitement in this proposition."

Energy Hub
Center for American Progress – Project - July 2009
http://www.americanprogress.org/projects/energy_hub/

The clean-energy economy holds the promise to combat global warming, reduce our dependence on volatile and expensive fossil fuels, and create millions of new high-quality jobs for Americans. But the fight to transition to this new economy will be a tough one. Some special interests are currently spending millions of dollars a day lobbying legislators in Washington to support the status quo. To ensure we usher in a clean-energy future, CAP has partnered with our allies to compile the arguments, stories, and state-by-state data we need to show that the clean-energy economy will create good jobs, lower consumer costs, spur innovation and entrepreneurship, and position America as a global leader in the new low-carbon energy era.

Clean-Energy Investments Create Jobs
http://www.americanprogress.org/projects/energy_hub/briefs/clean_jobs_brief.html

Regaining Our Clean Energy Leadership and Ending Our Dependence on Foreign Oil
http://www.americanprogress.org/projects/energy_hub/briefs/dependence_brief.html

Private Investment Dollars Pour into Clean-Energy Industries
http://www.americanprogress.org/projects/energy_hub/briefs/energy_investment_brief.html

ENERGY: LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

H. Sterling Burnett
Starting the Energy Technology Revolution through Competition
National Center for Policy Analysis - Brief Analysis - July 23, 2009 – 2 pages
http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba666

"The X-Prize model for new energy technology development would help the United States transition from the predominant use of fossil fuels to other energy sources while keeping the country at the forefront of technological development and transforming the way the world uses energy in the process."

David Kreutzer, Karen Campbell, William W. Beach, Ben Lieberman and Nicolas Loris
Impact of the Waxman–Markey Climate Change Legislation on the States
The Heritage Foundation – August 19, 2009
http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2585.cfm

"Inevitably the bill will affect each state differently. Some states are more energy-intensive than others and some rely a great deal on manufacturing to fuel its economy. Regardless, the costs in every state are significant."

Clean Energy Jobs, Climate-Related Policies and Economic Growth - State and Local Views
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works – Hearing - July 21, 2009
http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=7badef5f-802a-23ad-4525-e7f73ab98c63

"The focus of today's hearing is on clean energy jobs, economic growth, and global warming policies from a state and local perspective. Providing incentives for clean energy is a win-win solution for our country -- it helps to address the threat of global warming and it builds the foundation for long term recovery and prosperity. Right now, our states, cities and counties are leading the way in adopting smart policies to drive the transition to a clean energy economy."

Kathleen Hartnett White
A Federal Leviathan: The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009
Texas Public Policy Foundation – Policy Perspective - September 2009 – 12 pages
http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2009-09-PP25-ACES-khw.pdf

"On June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 2454 the American Clean Energy and Security Act… As the nation's leading energy producer, Texas would be more severely impacted by this bill's aggressive carbon caps and new federal energy mandates than any other state."

RESEARCH

Technology Research and Development Efforts Related to the Energy and Water Linkage
Committee on Science and Technology – Hearing – July 9, 2009
http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?NewsID=2540

"I would like to welcome our expert panelists who will discuss the ongoing RD&D activities to develop technologies that will help us to avoid disruptions in supplies of these two vital resources. Climate variability and demand growth affect both our water and energy resources, and it is critical that we acknowledge that

interdependency and develop technologies and adopt practices that allow us to manage these resources most effectively."

America's Energy Future: Technology and Transformation: Summary Edition
National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council - July 28, 2009
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12710#toc

With a sustained national commitment, the United States could obtain substantial energy-efficiency improvements, new sources of energy, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through the accelerated deployment of existing and emerging energy technologies, according to the report.

Breaking Through on Technology - Overcoming the Barriers to the Development and Wide Deployment of Low-Carbon Technology
Center for American Progress and Global Climate Network – Report – July 2009 – 41 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/gcn_cap_technology_report.html

'Technology is critical for human development and progress. The fight against climate change will not be won without a revolution in the use of existing low-carbon technology and a tidal wave of new inventions. Yet the importance of doing that, especially in healing the rifts in international climate negotiations, is not yet being recognized. The Global Climate Network asked more than 100 experts from government, private sector firms, academic institutes and non-governmental organizations in eight countries (Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Nigeria, South Africa and the United States) for their views on the barriers to the 'development and transfer' of low-carbon technology. Their responses are detailed and complex but in this report we draw together our key findings, conclusions and recommendations."

New Roadmaps for Wind and Solar Research and Development
Committee on Science and Technology – Hearing – July 14, 2009
http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?NewsID=2542

"The Subcommittee's hearing will receive testimony on H.R. 3165 sponsored by Rep. Tonko to authorize a comprehensive research, development, and demonstration program to advance wind energy technologies. The hearing also will examine the status of solar energy research and development programs and the need for a comprehensive plan to guide future solar R&D, including advanced manufacturing techniques for solar equipment."

Unconventional Fuels, Part I: Shale Gas Potential
Committee on Natural Resources – Hearing - June 4, 2009
http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=54&extmode=view&extid=260

"Today is the first of a series of hearings on unconventional fuels. I expect this series will provide opportunities to examine such critical questions as: which unconventional fuels are ready for prime time in our energy portfolio, which need more time for research and technological development, and what are the benefits and tradeoffs associated with various unconventional fuels, such as water use, cost-competitiveness, and climate impacts? Shale gas is the first resource we will examine. Shale gas could be a sizeable part of our energy portfolio in just a few years."

Unconventional Fuels, Part II: The Promise of Methane Hydrates
Committee on Natural Resources – Hearing - July 30, 2009
http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=27&extmode=view&extid=281

"Today's hearing is on methane hydrates, a truly unconventional fuel source, albeit one that has the potential to make a massive impact in the future. Methane hydrates can be thought of as natural gas frozen in ice… Originally these substances were thought to just be a laboratory curiosity or a pipeline nuisance. But since they were discovered in nature nearly 50 years ago, they have become viewed as a significant hazard for offshore oil and gas drillers, a potential major player in global climate change, and, most importantly for the purposes of this hearing, possibly the largest source of fossil fuel in the entire world."

TRANSPORTATION

Douglas Arent, Frank A. Verrastro, Erik R. Peterson, Jennifer L. Bovair
Alternative Transportation Fuels and Vehicle Technologies
Center for Strategic and International Studies – Report - Aug 17, 2009 – 57 pages
http://csis.org/files/publication/090811_Bovair_AltTransportFuels_Web.pdf

The global energy system is changing. New demand centers are emerging, and there are numerous challenges to expanding the transportation fuels infrastructure. It has become clear that without significant changes in policy or the introduction of new technologies, the world will continue on an unsustainable path with respect to how it produces, delivers, and uses its energy resources.

Driving and the Built Environment: Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions
The National Academies – Report – September 1, 2009 – 176 pages
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12747#toc

The report examines the relationship between land development patterns and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the United States to assess whether petroleum use, and by extension greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, could be reduced by changes in the design of development patterns. The report estimates the contributions that changes in residential and mixed-use development patterns and transit investments could make in reducing VMT by 2030 and 2050, and the impact this could have in meeting future transportation-related GHG reduction goals.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Paul W. Parformak et al.
Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Critical Barriers and Congressional Policy
Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress - June 24, 2009 – 25 pages
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40670_20090624.pdf

Federal policymakers are debating a range of potential initiatives to limit U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2). The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454), for example, would set a target of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, including CO2 emissions, 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. In the electricity industry, increasing the energy efficiency of buildings is viewed by many as the measure with the greatest potential to reduce CO2 emissions quickly and at relatively low cost. In light of the efficiency initiatives the federal government has taken since the 1970s, questions arise as to what additional policies might be considered to achieve more ambitious efficiency goals under a national policy of carbon control.

Bracken Hendricks, Benjamin Goldstein, Reid Detchon, Kurt Shickman
Rebuilding America - A Policy Framework for Investment in Energy Efficiency Retrofits
Center for American Progress – August 10, 2009 – 56 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/rebuilding_america.pdf

"Congress and the Obama administration have a historic opportunity to ensure that investments made in weatherization and energy efficiency as part of the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act evolve into a sustainable clean-energy retrofit program and a linchpin of the American economy for years to come. Investments in building efficiency retrofits can simultaneously address the challenges of economic recovery, energy insecurity, and global warming by laying the foundation for sustained economic growth, driving demand in the construction and manufacturing sectors, and creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs across the country."

Geoffrey P. Lewis, Julian L. Wong
Counting All the Benefits - Energy Efficiency and Systems Thinking
Center for American Progress – August 24, 2009 – 56 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/systems_thinking.html

"We are living in an increasingly carbon-constrained world. We need to consider the deployment of every technological and behavioral option to reduce carbon emissions if we are to avert the catastrophic consequences of climate change. Yet we do not necessarily have the luxury of tackling all options at once, particularly given the current global economic crisis. We therefore need to prioritize our low-carbon options on the basis of cost-effectiveness. Energy efficiency represents the most cost-effective, low-carbon strategy compared to other options such as renewable energy, nuclear power, and carbon capture and storage. The cheapest form of energy is, after all, the energy you do not use."

Trevor Houser
The Economics of Energy Efficiency in Buildings
Peterson Institute for International Economics - Policy Brief – August 2009 – 13 pages
http://piie.com/publications/pb/pb09-17.pdf

"Trevor Houser uses the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) model to study the economics of improving building-sector energy efficiency. Houser agrees with previous studies that the GHG abatement costs of improved building efficiency are cheaper than the abatement costs in other sectors (though more expensive than previous studies suggest), but he finds significant barriers to investments in energy efficiency."

Charles P. Ries et al.
Improving the Energy Performance of Buildings: Learning from the European Union and Australia
Rand Corporation - September 20, 2009 – 61 pages
http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR728.pdf

The study shows the review of recent European and Australian experience in the design and implementation of policies to improve energy efficiency of buildings and insights to aid U.S. designers of analogous policies.

Taft Foster and Thomas H. Klier
Raising Automotive Fuel Efficiency
FRB Chicago – Fed Letter – September 2009 – 4 pages.
http://www.chicagofed.org/publications/fedletter/cflseptember2009_266.pdf

"The Obama administration recently moved up the schedule for achieving the fuel efficiency standards set forth by Congress in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. The deadline for meeting these standards is now vehicle model year 2016 instead of 2020."

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Refrigerated Bottled or Canned Beverage Vending Machines
U.S. Department of Energy - August 31, 2009 – 189 pages
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/pdfs/bvm_final_rule_notice.pdf

The average energy use of the most common new cold beverage vending machines would be cut by about 42% according to the new national minimum standards. The move fulfills President Obama's February 5th pledge to complete five new efficiency standards by August. Energy efficiency and environmental groups lauded the new standards and DOE's prompt fulfillment of the President's commitment while lamenting the lack of energy-saving smart controls for vending machines that could have achieved even larger savings.

ELECTRICITY

Effectively Transforming Our Electric Delivery System to a Smart Grid
Committee on Science and Technology – Hearing – July 23, 2009
http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?NewsID=2553

"The hearing will explore the roles of both the federal government and industry in transitioning our aging power generation and distribution infrastructure into a smart grid… Continued efforts to research and develop innovative smart grid technologies and establish the appropriate interoperability standards to enable all these devices and systems to communicate with each other are necessary to make this transformation and realize significant efficiency, reliability, security and environmental benefits. Today, our massive interconnected power grid is a century old and over-burdened. It is imperative that we modernize our electric delivery system so that our economy can thrive and growing power needs will be met efficiently and reliably."

Accelerating Smart Grid Investments
World Economic Forum – Report - July 2009 – 39 pages
http://www.weforum.org/pdf/SlimCity/SmartGrid2009.pdf

The report shows how smart grids can be the backbone infrastructure for tomorrow's energy solutions and green economy. The world's electricity systems are increasingly outdated and coming under pressure in the face of rising demand, climate change and the advent of transformative technologies. Smart grids have been hailed as a key to sustainably meeting emerging energy needs in a new age where clean energy is at a premium, networks require flexibility to incorporate renewable energy and customers' demands for greater transparency and control over their consumption are growing.

Commerce Secretary Unveils Plan for Smart Grid Interoperability
NIST – Press Release – September 24, 2009
http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/smartgrid_092409.html
http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/smartgrid_interoperability.pdf

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke today unveiled an accelerated plan for developing standards to transform the U.S. power distribution system into a secure, more efficient and environmentally friendly Smart Grid and create clean-energy jobs. Produced by the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the approximately 90-page document identifies about 80 initial standards that will enable the vast number of interconnected devices and systems that will make up the nationwide Smart Grid to communicate and work with each other.

OIL

Deron Lovaas

Fighting Oil Addiction: Ranking States' Oil Vulnerability and Solutions for Change
Natural Resources Defense Council - August 2009 – 21 pages
http://www.nrdc.org/energy/states/files/states.pdf

America's addiction to oil continues to threaten not only our national security and global environmental health, but also our economic viability. The report analyzes how heavily drivers in each state are affected by increases in oil prices and ranked states on their adoption of solutions to reduce their oil dependence, measures they are taking to lessen their vulnerability and to bolster America's security.

Oil and Gas Tax Provisions: A Consideration of the President's FY 2010 Budget Proposal
Senate Committee on Finance – Hearing - September 10, 2009
http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/hearing091009.htm

"As part of his proposed budget, the president has recommended eliminating $31.5 billion worth of tax preferences for U.S. oil and gas production—as estimated over the time period 2011 to 2019. Over the same time period, U.S. oil and gas production is projected to value about $3.4 trillion." Six Experts explore this issue.

Franklin Rusco
Federal Oil and Gas Management: Opportunities Exist to Improve Oversight
GAO - September 16, 2009 -20 pages
http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-09-1014T

GAO has reviewed federal oil and gas management and revenue collection and found many material weaknesses. This testimony is based primarily on key findings from past GAO reports and some preliminary findings from ongoing work. These findings focus on Interior's: (1) policies for oil and gas leasing, (2) oversight of oil and gas production, (3) royalty regime and policies to boost oil and gas development, (4) oil and gas information technology (IT) systems, and (5) royalty-in-kind program. GAO's past reports provided recommendations that Interior officials report that they are working to implement.

Christopher Beddor, Winny Chen, Rudy deLeon, Shiyong Park, Daniel J. Weiss
Securing America's Future - Enhancing Our National Security by Reducing Oil Dependence and Environmental Damage
Center for American progress – Report – August 25, 2009 – 21 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/securing_future.html

"America's dependence on foreign oil transfers U.S. dollars to corrupt and unstable regimes that do not serve U.S. interests. As oil production in friendly nations becomes depleted, the U.S. may be forced to choose between maintaining an effective foreign policy or a consistent energy supply. But with the House of Representatives' passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACESA) this June, we have an historic opportunity to enhance our national security by reducing our dependence on oil. Policies to accomplish this goal, including more efficient fuel economy standards, investments in hybrid and electric vehicles, development of natural gas-fueled heavy duty vehicles, and production of advanced biofuels would also create jobs and reduce global warming pollution."

Laurel Graefe
The Peak Oil Debate
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Economic Review - August 2009 – 16 pages
http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/er0902_graefe.pdf

For the past half-century, a debate has raged over when “peak oil” will occur, the point at which output can no longer increase and production begins to level off or gradually decline. Determining how long the oil supply will last has become even more pressing because the world’s energy supply still relies heavily on oil, and global energy demand is expected to rise steeply over the next twenty years. The report focuses on the debate.

Mohsin S. Khan
The 2008 Oil Price "Bubble"
Peterson Institute for International Economics - Policy Brief – August 2009 – 9 pages
http://www.piie.com/publications/pb/pb09-19.pdf

“As oil prices began to rise in 2009 from a low point of about $40 a barrel in January to around $70 a barrel in July, a question is whether the world is in for another oil price spike in the near term similar to that witnessed in early 2008. World oil prices skyrocketed from about $90 a barrel in January 2008 to cross the $140 a barrel mark in June, finally hitting a record high of $147 a barrel on July 11, 2008, before collapsing to less than $40 a barrel in December. Was the oil price increase of over 50 percent in the first six months of 2008 a bubble? If it was a bubble and oil prices overshot their long-term equilibrium level in the first half of 2008, did they undershoot when the bubble burst in the second half of the year? Khan looks at a variety of indicators and explanations and concludes that speculation in the oil market created an oil price bubble in the first half of 2008.”

Energy Markets: Refinery Outages Can Have Varying Gasoline Price Impacts, But Gaps in Federal Data Limit Understanding of Impacts
U.S. Government Accountability Office – Report - July 30, 2009 – 48 pages
http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09700.pdf

In 2008, GAO reported that, with the exception of the period following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, refinery outages in the United States did not show discernible trends in reduced production capacity, frequency, and location from 2002 through 2007. Some outages are planned to perform routine maintenance or upgrades, while unplanned outages occur as a result of equipment failure or other unforeseen problems. GAO was asked to (1) evaluate the effect of refinery outages on wholesale gasoline prices and (2) identify gaps in federal data needed for this and similar analyses.

H. Sterling Burnett and Tomas Castell
Oil from Stone: Securing America’s Energy Future
National Center for Policy Analysis – Brief analysis - July 9, 2009 – 2 pages
http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba664.pdf
.
Rising prices and security concerns raise important questions about America's energy options. Currently, the United States imports 66 percent of its oil, about 4.7 billion barrels per year or 9,000 barrels every minute. However, there are vast amounts of oil shale, a type of rock rich in kerogen, an organic sedimentary material, which can be converted into high-quality liquid fuels. The U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.) conservatively estimates oil shale formations in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contain 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil, more than three times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia, according to the report.

Kenneth B. Medlock III
Who Is in the Oil Futures Market and How Has It Changed?
James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy - August 26, 2009 – 18 pages
http://www.bakerinstitute.org/publications/EF-pub-MedlockJaffeOilFuturesMarket-082609.pdf

The study shows an investigation of the composition of traders in the oil futures market and how this composition has changed in recent.

OTHER ENERGIES

John Podesta, Timothy E. Wirth
Natural Gas: A Bridge Fuel for the 21st Century
Center for American progress – Memo – August 9, 2010 - 11 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/bridge_fuel.html

"Despite the potential energy, economic, and security benefits of natural gas, the recently House-passed American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454, does not include enough opportunities to expand its use. The Center for American Progress and the Energy Future Coalition therefore propose a number of policies that would increase the use of natural gas and low-carbon energy sources while providing additional protection for our climate and communities."

Texas Wind Energy
FRB Dallas – Article - Southwest Economy - Third Quarter 2009
http://dallasfed.org/research/swe/2009/swe0903d.cfm

Texas became the nation's most prolific generator of wind power in the past decade, but the industry's future growth will depend on tax incentives to make it cost competitive and new transmission lines to get electricity to consumers.

James M. MacDonald et al.
Manure Use for Fertilizer and Energy: Report to Congress
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Web posted July 2009 – 53 pages
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AP/AP037/AP037.pdf

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate the role of animal manure as a source of fertilizer, and its other uses. About 5 percent of all U.S. cropland is currently fertilized with livestock manure, and corn accounts for over half of the acreage to which manure is applied. Expanded environmental regulation through nutrient management plans will likely lead to wider use of manure on cropland, at higher production costs, but with only modest impacts on production costs, commodity demand, or farm structure. There is widespread interest in using manure as a feedstock for energy production.

Coal Ash Reports
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - September 16, 2009
http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/surveys2/index.htm#reports

This is the final contractor reports assessing the structural integrity of 17 impoundments and similar management units containing coal combustion residuals, commonly referred to as coal ash, at nine facilities. These 17 impoundments have a "high" or "significant" hazard potential rating. A high hazard potential rating is not related to the stability of those impoundments but to the potential for harm should the impoundment fail. A significant hazard potential rating means impoundment failure can cause economic loss, environmental damage, or damage to infrastructure.

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS

Libya
Energy Information Administration - July 2009 – 8 pages

http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Libya/pdf.pdf

The Libyan economy is heavily dependent on the hydrocarbon industry which, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), accounted for over 95 percent of export earnings; an estimated 85-90 percent of fiscal revenues; and over 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008. According to the Oil and Gas Journal (OGJ), Libya holds close to 44 billion barrels of oil reserves, the largest in Africa. EIA data indicate that 2008 total oil production (crude plus liquids) was approximately 1.88 million barrels per day (bbl/d).

China
Energy Information Administration - July 2009 – 20 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/China/pdf.pdf

Despite the economic slowdown in exports and domestic demand in the past year, China's demand for energy remains high. China has emerged from being a net oil exporter in the early 1990s to become the world's third-largest net importer of oil in 2006. Natural gas usage in China has also increased rapidly in recent years, and China has looked to raise natural gas imports via pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG). China is also the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, an important factor in world energy markets.

Canada
Energy Information Administration - July 2009 – 14 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Canada/pdf.pdf

Canada has considerable natural resources and is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of energy. In 2006, Canada produced 19.3 quadrillion British Thermal Units (Btu) of total energy, the fifth-largest amount in the world. Since 1980, Canada's total energy production has increased by 87 percent, while its total energy consumption has increased by only 44 percent. Almost all of Canada's energy exports go to the United States, making it the largest source of U.S. energy imports.

Oman
Energy Information Administration - August 2009 – 6 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Oman/pdf.pdf

Oman's economy is heavily reliant on oil exports for revenue, though diversification into natural gas production has mitigated this to a degree. Roughly two-thirds of Oman's total energy consumption comes from natural gas and the remainder comes from oil, reflecting the country's relative abundance of oil and natural gas reserves. Oman's future domestic energy consumption plans call for increased use of natural gas in energy generation in order to free up more oil for export.

Syria
Energy Information Administration - June 2009 – 5 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Syria/pdf.pdf

Syria is the only significant crude oil producing country in the Eastern Mediterranean region, which includes Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories. In 2008, Syria produced a total of about 450,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude oil and oil liquids and 213 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas. Regional integration in the energy sector is increasing through the opening of the Syria link of the Arab Gas Pipeline and plans for expanding the pipeline network are ongoing.

Malaysia

Energy Information Administration - September 2009 – 7 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Malaysia/pdf.pdf

Although Malaysia's oil fields are maturing, new offshore developments of both oil and gas are expected to increase aggregate production capacity in the near- to mid-term. Malaysia's western coast runs alongside the Strait of Malacca, an important route for seaborne energy trade that links the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Australia
Energy Information Administration - September 2009 - 7 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Australia/pdf.pdf

Australia has significant petroleum, natural gas and coal reserves and is one of the few countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that is a significant net hydrocarbon exporter, exporting about two-thirds of its total energy production. Australia is the world's largest coal exporter and the fifth largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2007, after Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Algeria. Australia's prospects for expanding these energy exports in the future are promising as Asian demand for both coal and LNG is rising. While Australia also exports crude oil and refined petroleum products, it is a net importer of oil.

INTERNATIONAL

OPEC Oil Export Revenues
Energy Information Administration - September 2009 – 3 pages
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/pdf.pdf

Based on projections from the EIA September 2009, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn $559 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and $675 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned $971 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, $288 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earnings reached $2,688 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007.

Cooperation on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China
Memorandum of Understanding - U.S. Department of State - July 28, 2009
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/126802.pdf

Kenneth G. Lieberthal. John L. Thornton
U.S.-China Clean Energy Cooperation: The Road Ahead
China Center at Brookings - September 2009 - 35 pages.
http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_us_china_energy_cooperation_lieberthal/09_us_china_energy_cooperation_lieberthal.pdf

Since the Obama administration took office, U.S.-China cooperation on clean energy and climate changehas become one of the major issues that are shaping the evolution of U.S.-China relations. This change reflects internal developments in both countries, along with the looming prospect of the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009. Accords on specific cooperative efforts, however, to date have not moved much beyond the U.S.-China Ten Year Framework Agreement on Energy and Environment signed in June 2008. The remaining months of 2009 -- which will witness both a presidential summit in Beijing in November and the UN Copenhagen Conference in December -- are critical for translating momentum created in the first nine months of 2009 into concrete progress.